

Introduction to Criminal Justice (CJSA 1322)

CREDIT

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:

None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the principles and foundations of law, including the history of law and law enforcement, the foundations of law, ethics and professionalism, issues in law enforcement, criminal investigations, corrections, private security, and the court system. Students will explore TEKS-based objectives, practice professional skills, and engage with authentic case studies and resources.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to

- - Trace the history of law from ancient codes to the U.S. Bill of Rights.
- - Analyze the development and role of policing in the U.S.
- - Define and apply foundational concepts of law, including the Bill of Rights.
- - Demonstrate ethical and professional decision-making in real-world dilemmas.
- - Identify issues in law enforcement such as profiling, excessive force, and gang activity.
- - Classify crimes and punishments within the Texas Penal Code.
- - Explain processes within the court systems and simulate trial procedures.
- - Differentiate correctional systems and evaluate rehabilitation and punishment models.
- - Explore the development and role of private security in the U.S.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Lisa Miller

Email: lmiller@kirbyvillecisd.org

Office Location: Kirbyville High School

Office Hours: Available by Appointment (M-F, flexible hours)

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

Provided notes, videos, and resources as outlined in the Scope and Sequence.

Approved: **Initials/date**



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ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend scheduled class or have evidence of a school-approved absence.

DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process.

If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
8/25-8/29	History of Law & Law Enforcement Notes, Vocab, LapBook, Timeline	8/29	8/29
9/2-9/5	Foundations of Law Amendment Scenarios, Bill of Rights Foldable	9/5	9/5
9/8-9/12	Ethics & Professionalism Ethical Scenarios, Role Play, Dilemmas	9/12	9/12
9/15-9/19	Issues in Law Enforcement Mass Shooting Project, Gang Identification	9/19	9/19
9/22-9/26	Crimes & Punishments Punishment Google Slides, Bingo Activity	9/26	9/26
9/29-10-3	Criminal Investigations Create a Crime Scene, Hallway Investigation	10/3	10/3
10/6-10/10	Corrections Supermax Research, Beyond Scared Straight	10/10	10/10
10/13-10/17	Private Security Pinkerton Biography, Mock Licensing Exam	10/17	10/17
10/20-11/7	Court Systems Courtroom Notes, Voir Dire Activity, Trial Simulation	11/7	11/7
11/10-11/21	Advanced Criminal Investigations Case Solvability, Evidence Analysis	11/21	11/21
11/24-11/30	Thanksgiving Break No Class	11/30	11/30
12/1-12/5	Corrections Continued Death Penalty Comparative Project	12/5	12/5
12/8-12/12	Private Security Continued Retail Shrinkage Project, Licensing Prep	12/12	12/12
12/15-12/19	Finals Week Comprehensive Final Exam	12/19	12/19

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Assignments/Discussions 40%
- Exams 60%

GRADE SCALE

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- 0-59 F

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements>. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email specialpopulations@lit.edu. You may also visit the online resource at [Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology \(lit.edu\)](#).

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at www.lit.edu. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many

students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses

STARFISH

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.